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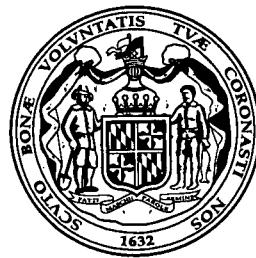
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ABSTRACT

This document is a mostly multiple choice test for content given to Maryland high school students enrolled in a government course. The test is divided into 2 sessions, with 25 questions in session 1 and 56 questions in session 2. The multiple choice questions are designated as selected response questions. Other constructed response questions require a written answer. (BT)

# Government



*Maryland High School Assessment*  
Public Release, Fall 2000

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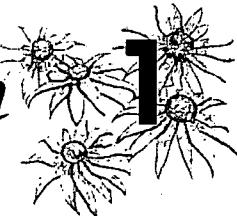
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# Session

1



## Sample A

Which situation would most likely lead to a criminal trial?

- A Two homeowners disagree on the boundary between their properties.
- B An auto mechanic ruins a car's engine and refuses to pay for the damage.
- C A person is caught leaving a store with a watch without paying for it.
- D A newspaper delivery person accidentally breaks a window.

## Sample B

Which of these has the authority to make laws?

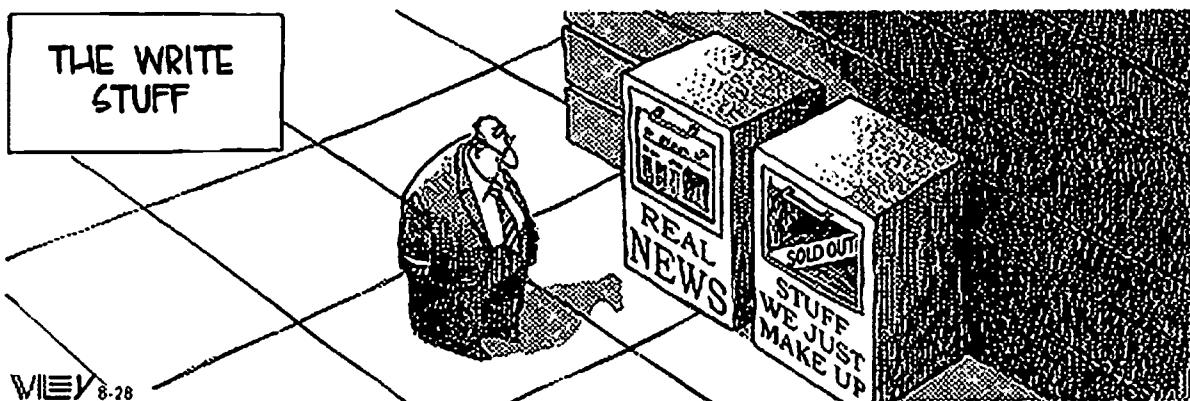
- F the Cabinet
- G the Congress
- H the President
- J the Supreme Court

Notice that the answer choices for Sample B are FGHJ. Selected response answer choices will alternate ABCD and FGHJ.

In addition to selected response questions such as Sample A and Sample B, there will be constructed response questions that require a written answer. Brief constructed response questions, which require a short written answer, are labeled "BCR" below the question number in the Student Test Book. Extended constructed response questions, which require a longer written answer, are labeled "ECR" below the question number in the Student Test Book. The Rubric Sheet provides information about how constructed response questions will be scored. You may refer to the Rubric Sheet during the test.

Remember, read all directions and questions very carefully and choose the best answer for each question. If you are not sure about an answer, do the best you can, but don't spend too much time on any one question.

Answer all questions until you come to the end of Session 1, where you will see a stop sign. If you finish early, you may check your answers in Session 1, but do not go on to Session 2. You have 70 minutes to complete Session 1.

**1** Look at the cartoon below.

Which of these points of view is expressed by the cartoon?

- A Interesting news is unavailable to readers.
- B People choose entertainment rather than information.
- C The government needs to limit the freedom of the press.
- D The media discourages people from reading newspapers.

**2** Which of these characteristics do federal systems of government have in common?

- F All laws for the state are made by the national government.
- G The national and state governments divide political authority.
- H All taxes are paid to the states instead of to the national government.
- J Foreign policy is determined by the states rather than by the national government.

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**3** Which of these is an advantage of an authoritarian form of government?

- A** Participation by citizens is guaranteed through open elections.
- B** Decisions are based on majority rule with minority rights protected.
- C** Decision making is quicker because fewer people are involved in the process.
- D** An independent press helps the public make informed decisions about their government.

**4** In which of these cases did the U.S. Supreme Court interpret the "necessary and proper" clause of the United States Constitution?

- F** *Marbury v. Madison*
- G** *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- H** *Tinker v. Des Moines School District*
- J** *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*

**5** Which of these situations would violate a right established in *Miranda v. Arizona*?

- A** School authorities search a student's locker without a warrant.
- B** A city prohibits cigarette companies from advertising on billboards.
- C** A state passes a law establishing several methods of capital punishment.
- D** Police officers refuse to allow a person in custody to consult with a lawyer.

**6** A grand jury decides

- F** where a trial will be held
- G** when a case will go to trial
- H** whether a person should be indicted
- J** which attorney will represent a defendant

**7**

In 1993, leaders from Canada, the United States, and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement.

What was the initial result of this agreement?

- A Buying and selling among the three countries increased.
- B The minimum wage decreased in the United States.
- C The three countries began trading only with each other.
- D Unemployment and poverty increased in the United States.

**8**

Which of these can lend money to a country to prevent its economy from collapsing?

- F Federal Reserve System
- G International Monetary Fund
- H North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- J International Red Cross

**9**

Which of these does the World Bank provide for developing nations?

- A technology for space exploration
- B leadership for military operations
- C arbitration of border disputes
- D advice on economic policy

**10**

An embargo is sometimes used to achieve a country's foreign policy goals.

An embargo is an example of

- F an economic sanction
- G emergency assistance
- H an economic alliance
- J military intervention

**11****BCR**

- Explain one advantage and one disadvantage the United States has in being a member of the United Nations.
- Include details and examples to support your explanation.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**12** Maryland and its citizens are concerned about pollution in the Potomac River. Two thousand acres of forested land along the Potomac River are for sale by a private developer.

Which of these would be the best way for the state to protect the environment of the Potomac River?

- F encourage residential development of the land
- G purchase the land and set it aside as a wildlife refuge
- H rent the land to local governments for recreational use
- J give tax breaks to a business that wants to build a factory on the land

**13** Read the fictional scenario below.

Representatives to the state legislature from the northern region are asking for money to reduce traffic congestion. Representatives from the eastern region are requesting funds to develop an industrial center to attract business.

What problem does this present for the state?

- A preventing an economic recession in the state
- B balancing the needs of each area in the state
- C electing representatives to the state legislature
- D giving power to the state legislature to pass laws

**14** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) represents

- F the reserves that banks are required to hold
- G the interest charged on reserves loaned to banks
- H the average cost of goods and services
- J the goods and services produced within a nation

**15** Which of these is most commonly a role of the government in the United States economy?

- A setting prices for goods
- B requiring factories to produce certain goods
- C determining where citizens may work
- D establishing laws to ensure the safety of workers

**16** Which of these describes the primary role of the International Red Cross?

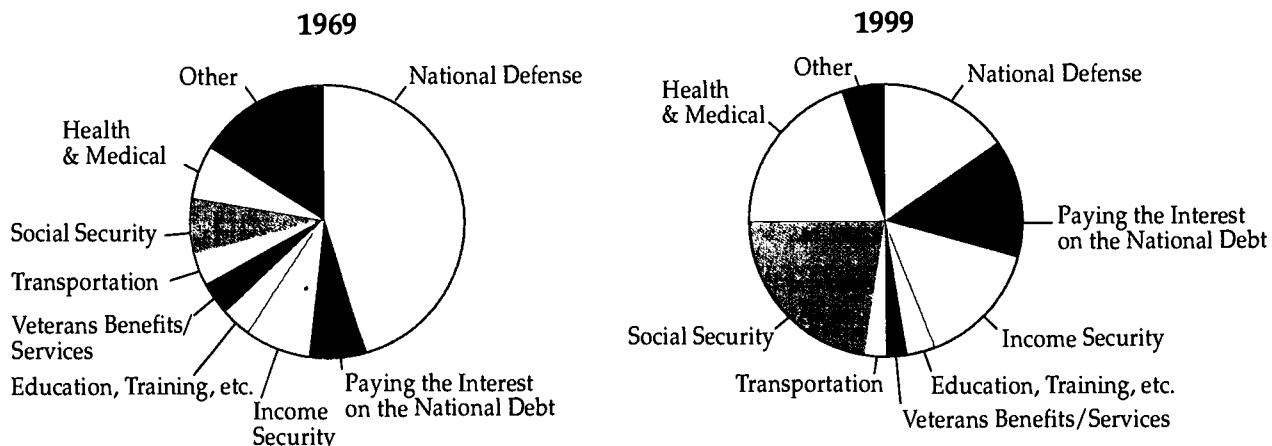
- F aiding disaster victims
- G stabilizing economic systems
- H promoting trade among nations
- J sending troops to warring nations

17

Look at the graphs below.

ECR

## FEDERAL SPENDING



Source: Tax Foundation

Between 1969 and 1999, the federal government changed the percentage of the budget it spent for different programs.

- Identify one category that experienced a change between 1969 and 1999 in percentage of spending.
- Give one possible reason why spending changed for the category you identified.
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the change in spending for the category you identified.
- Include details and examples to support your explanation and description.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**18** Look at the cartoon below.



Which of these does the cartoon suggest might happen as a result of the increase in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations?

- F Some companies could be put out of business.
- G Some endangered species may become extinct.
- H The EPA will lose its authority to enforce laws.
- J The EPA will lose its support from environmentalists.

**19** Which of these describes the main responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in regulating the airline industry?

- A to create jobs
- B to reduce fares
- C to improve safety
- D to encourage competition

**20** Which of these actions would most likely result in a decrease in consumer spending?

- F increasing income taxes
- G decreasing the interest rate
- H increasing government spending
- J decreasing the reserve requirement

"Endangered Species/Endangered Companies" cartoon by Jim Jordan, copyright © by Jim Jordan. Used by permission.

**21**

Study the results of the public opinion poll below.

People were asked: "As the budget is prepared, which programs should receive reduced funding, the same amount of funding, or more funding?"

**PUBLIC OPINION POLL**

Program	Reduce	Stay the Same	Increase
Mass Transit	35%	35%	30%
Arts and Humanities	35%	50%	15%
National Defense	20%	35%	45%
National Parks	60%	30%	10%

According to the results of the poll, which of these would most likely be the government's response?

- A increase military spending
- B provide funding for a subway system
- C set aside more land for national parks
- D increase funding for museums in major urban areas

**22****BCR**

A student was denied participation in his school's football program when he refused to consent to the school district's random drug testing policy.

In *Vernonia v. Acton School District* (1995), the student argued that his school district's random drug testing policy was a violation of the reasonable search and seizure clause of the Fourth Amendment.

- Based on the court's ruling in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985), how do you think the Supreme Court ruled in *Vernonia v. Acton School District*?
- Include details and examples to support your conclusion.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



**23**

Which of these excerpts from the United States Constitution gives the Supreme Court the authority to review a law passed by Congress?

- A "The judges . . . shall hold their offices during good behavior. . . ."
- B "He [the President] shall . . . nominate . . . judges of the Supreme Court. . . ."
- C "The judicial power shall extend to all cases . . . arising under this Constitution. . . ."
- D "The Congress shall have the power . . . to constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court. . . ."

**24**

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* was a step toward "equal justice under the law" because it

- F removed poll taxes
- G limited states' power to tax
- H made segregation laws unconstitutional
- J required police to inform people of their rights

**25**

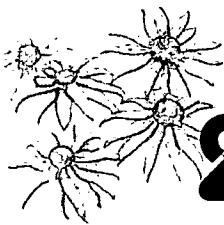
BCR

- Describe two situations in which freedom of expression may be legally limited.
- Explain why limiting freedom of expression is justified in each of the situations you described.
- Include details and examples to support your description and explanation.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.



# Session 2



Answer all questions until you come to the end of Session 2, where you will see a stop sign. If you finish early, you may check your answers in Session 2, but do not go back to Session 1. You have 52 minutes to complete Session 2.

**26** In 1816, the federal government established a national bank.

The state of Maryland imposed a tax on the bank, but the federal government refused to pay it.

On what basis did the U.S. Supreme Court rule in favor of the federal government?

- F Government is limited by the consent of the people.
- G Neither the federal nor the state government should be involved in banking.
- H While the majority opinion prevails, minority rights should be protected.
- J When federal and state powers conflict, the federal government is supreme.

**27**

Read the quote below.

**"The purse and sword must not be in the same hands."**

*George Mason,  
Constitutional Convention*

Which of these principles of government is expressed by this statement?

- A rule of law
- B executive privilege
- C popular sovereignty
- D separation of powers

**28** Which of these is specified in an amendment to the United States Constitution?

- F United States citizens are forbidden to accept titles of nobility.
- G All adults living in the United States have the right to vote.
- H Religious leaders are prohibited from occupying a government office.
- J The government must justly compensate people if it takes their property.

**29**

In which form of government do sovereign states have more power than the central government?

- A federal
- B confederate
- C authoritarian
- D unitary

30

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** requires that schools receiving public funds provide equal opportunities in instruction and extracurricular activities, regardless of gender.

Which of these would be an application of Title IX?

- F Schools discontinue sports and after-school programs for boys.
- G Schools provide similar opportunities for girls and boys to be involved in sports.
- H Schools schedule physical education classes with both male and female teachers.
- J Schools allow a "Girls Only" wrestling team, but not a "Boys Only" wrestling team.

31

Which of the following statements about public assistance programs tends to be true?

- A Assistance programs, once started, become very difficult to change.
- B The cost of maintaining such programs remains about the same.
- C The number of people covered by such programs is always small.
- D Federal assistance programs greatly reduce the numbers of social workers.

32

Under the United States Constitution, state governments are allowed to

- F establish an official religion for the state
- G prosecute religious leaders who commit crimes
- H forbid certain religions from being practiced in the state
- J require political candidates to practice a particular religion

33

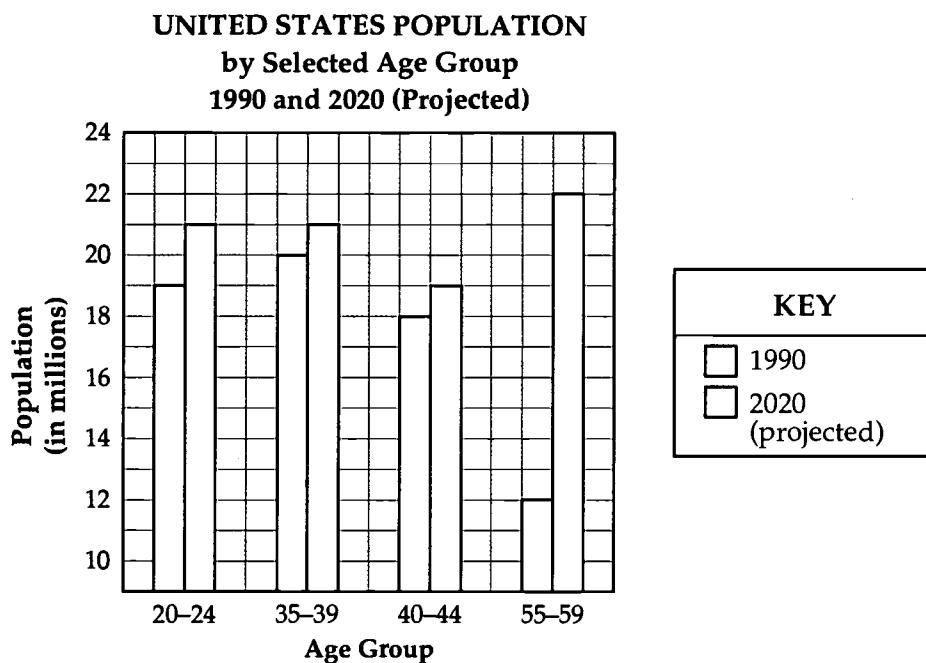
BCR

In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill prohibiting the Motor Vehicle Administration from releasing personal information about a driver without the driver's consent. Such information includes the driver's address, social security number, and driving record. Prior to 1999, a driver's record was available to the public.

- State whether you agree or disagree with the bill passed by the General Assembly.
- Include details and examples to support your position.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**34** Study the graph below.



Source: United States Bureau of the Census

Based on information in the graph, which action will the government most likely take by 2020?

- F increase unemployment benefits for workers
- G reduce the amount of money provided for public education
- H raise taxes to accommodate programs for the elderly
- J decrease the number of low-interest loans available for college students

**35** Which of these would be an economic benefit of new homes being built in a rural area?

- A** an increased tax base
- B** a lower employment rate
- C** a smaller infrastructure
- D** an increase in farm land

**36** Why does the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) require the testing of new medicines before approving them for use?

- F** to protect the public from unsafe products
- G** to provide more jobs in community hospitals
- H** to protect pharmaceutical companies from lawsuits
- J** to provide the public with more affordable health care

**37** The Federal Reserve System has the power to

- A** print and coin money
- B** place tariffs on imports
- C** increase or decrease the sales tax rate
- D** increase or decrease the money supply

## **D**irections

Read the news article below. Then answer Number 38.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced that it will oppose a large book retailing company's attempt to buy the country's largest book wholesaler. The FTC stated that the buyout could be in violation of antitrust laws.

**38** According to the article, a role of the Federal Trade Commission is to

- F** make laws dealing with mergers
- G** ensure competition in an industry
- H** provide money for businesses to expand
- J** decide how much of a product will be produced

**39** Study the chart below.

**PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES  
LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL**

Year	White	African American	Hispanic
1975	9.7	31.3	23.0
1980	10.2	32.5	21.8
1985	11.4	31.3	28.4
1990	10.7	31.9	26.2

Source: United States Bureau of the Census

Which of these actions could the government take to address the situation indicated by the data in the chart?

- A develop more job opportunities
- B provide transportation to suburban schools
- C increase defense spending
- D decrease tariffs and import more products

**40** In 1961, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that illegally obtained evidence could not be used in state courts.

Which of these constitutional rights is protected by this ruling?

- F the right to counsel
- G the right to free speech
- H the right to protection against self-incrimination
- J the right to protection against unreasonable search and seizure

**41** Some students were accused of violating school policy by leaving school grounds while school was in session. Before being suspended, the students were given an opportunity to explain their reasons for leaving school grounds.

Which of these principles of law applies to this situation?

- A due process
- B majority rule
- C checks and balances
- D separation of powers

**42** Which of these types of cases would be tried as a civil case?

- F kidnapping
- G lawsuit
- H shoplifting
- J traffic violation

**43****BCR** Read the fictional scenario below.

A developer wants a local government to approve her proposal to build a city for 12,000 residents. The proposal includes 4,600 homes, a golf course, offices, and stores. Several groups have protested and have called for the government to step in and stop the development. They say the property has environmental and historical value.

Consider both sides of this issue.

- Explain one reason the government should allow the development.
- Explain one reason the government should prohibit the development.
- Include details and examples to support your explanations.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**44** Why were Social Security and Medicare created?

- F** to provide economic stability for older people
- G** to encourage people to make their own medical decisions
- H** to increase the number of people requiring private assistance
- J** to ensure that businesses provide retirement benefits for their employees

**45** Which responsibility of the executive branch is being fulfilled when the governor of Maryland calls out the Maryland National Guard to stop a riot?

- A** maintaining order
- B** administering laws
- C** balancing the state budget
- D** preventing an economic recession

**46** The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was an attempt to correct past discrimination.

Which of these actions would most help further this goal?

- F** passing a poll tax on those in higher-income levels
- G** requiring literacy tests for those who did not graduate from high school
- H** eliminating ballots and election materials that are printed in languages other than English
- J** creating districts that increase the opportunity for minority representation in the House of Representatives

**47**  
**BCR**

- Explain how the media influences voters' opinions of political candidates.
- Include details and examples to support your explanation.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

**48**

Which Maryland executive office is most like the office of United States President?

- F governor
- G treasurer
- H comptroller
- J attorney general

**49**

The House of Representatives elects the President when no presidential candidate

- A has been a member of Congress
- B belongs to a major political party
- C receives a majority of the Electoral College vote
- D meets the constitutional requirements for the office

**50**

Which of these is part of the judicial branch of the United States federal government?

- F the Senate
- G the President
- H the Supreme Court
- J the House of Representatives

**51**

Look at the cartoon below.



The Record New Jersey

According to the cartoon, many politicians are reluctant to reform campaign financing because they

- A benefit personally from campaign finance money
- B use campaign money to balance the federal budget
- C believe the public opposes campaign finance reform
- D believe campaign finance reform would be unconstitutional

"Campaign Finance Reform? . . ." cartoon by Jimmy Margulies, copyright © by The Record New Jersey. Used by permission.

**52** Read the information below.

In 1999, Congress approved legislation establishing a system to identify states in the West that might provide nuclear storage sites, and promising money to communities that agree to store nuclear waste.

By passing this legislation, which issue was the government addressing?

- F** land use
- G** education
- H** research investment
- J** industrial regulation

**53** Which area of federal government spending would most likely be affected by a large increase in the number of people commuting to cities from the suburbs?

- A** subsidies for agriculture
- B** loans for businesses
- C** grants for employment training
- D** funds for public transportation

**54** Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia joined efforts to form a task force to stop pollution of the Chesapeake Bay.

The formation of the task force is an example of government policy being shaped by

- F** regional interests
- G** national interests
- H** community interests
- J** international interests

**55**

Which of these is a characteristic of a free market economy?

- A Land and factories are owned by the government.
- B Business decisions are controlled by the government.
- C Most economic decisions are based on custom and tradition.
- D Profits from the sale of goods and services are retained by business owners.

**56**

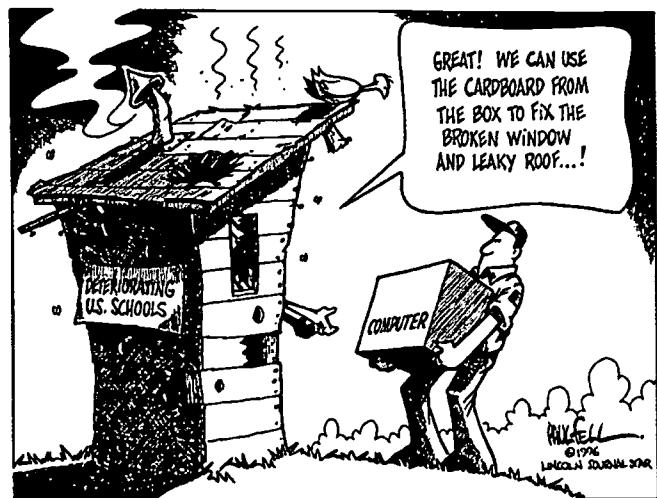
Which of these is an economic benefit of tariffs on goods imported into the United States?

- F Prices of goods made in the United States will decrease.
- G The United States will attract more imports into the country.
- H Businesses in the United States will have less competition from foreign manufacturers.
- J Competition among producers of goods and services in the United States will remain the same.

**57**

Look at the cartoon below.

BCR



- Describe how this cartoon illustrates the concept of **opportunity cost**.
- Explain how the government might prevent the situation shown in the cartoon.
- Include details and examples to support your description and explanation.

Write your answer on the lines in your Answer Book.

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